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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/024,753	12/19/2001	Johannus Leopoldus Bakx	NL000752	4014

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P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LINH V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/024,753

Applicant(s)

BAKX, JOHANNUS LEOPOLDUS

Examiner

Linh V. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

#### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or  
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 – 6, and 9 – 12, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Westwick U.S. patent No. 4,720,686.

Regarding to claims 1 and 9, Figs. 1 and 2, of Westwick disclose an amplifier circuit for amplifying an input signal, comprising: an input terminal (Vn) for inputting said input signal, and an output terminal (output positive and negative terminals of 14) for outputting an output signal corresponding to the amplified input signal, and a stray feedback element (C16, C18), by which said output signal is fed back to said input terminal, characterized by a feedback compensation terminal (CMFB, 20) for outputting a predetermined fraction of said output signal so as to reduce the stray feedback of said output signal (Col. 3 lines 27 – 30).

Regarding to claim 2. An amplifier circuit according to claim 1, characterized in that said output terminal is a differential output terminal comprising a first (positive terminal of 14) and a second (Negative terminal of 14) output terminal, and said output signal is a differential output signal (Fig. 1).

Regarding to claim 3, Westwick as applied to claimed 2 above, does not explicitly disclose the function of predetermined fraction is determined by the following

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equation:  $U_{sub.RFB} = \alpha \cdot (U_{sub.RFP} - U_{sub.RFN})$ ;  $-1 < \alpha < 1$ . However the feedback amplifier circuit of Westwick discloses every aspect of claimed 2 invention, then the function of predetermined fraction of present invention is inherent or intrinsic to the amplifier circuit of Westwick.

Regarding to claim 4, wherein said stray feedback element is a stray capacity (16,18).

Regarding to claims 5 and 10, Westwick further disclose an adjustable voltage dividing means (17,19, 20) is provided for generating said fraction of said output signal.

Regarding to claim 6. An amplifier circuit according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said amplifier circuit is a transimpedance amplifier (14, terminology only, no subject matter).

Regarding to claim 11, characterized by updating the value of said predetermined fraction during a start-up of a device in which said amplifier circuit is provided (inherently to 14)

Regarding to claim 12, wherein generating said predetermined fraction by a voltage dividing operation (17, 19).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 7 and 8, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westwick as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of lida U.S. patent No. 6,545,959.

Westwick as applied to claim 2 above, disclosed every aspect of an amplifier of claimed invention except for the amplifier is intended to be employed in a optical disc player, wherein the optical display having a photo diode (10) for generating said input signal, channel decoding and/or error correction means (30) coupled to an output of the amplifier circuit

Fig. 9 and 10 of lida disclose an amplifier circuit (Fig. 9 [32]) employed in a optical disc player (Fig. 9[200]) , wherein the optical display having a photo diode (Fig. 10) for generating said input signal, channel decoding and/or error correction means (see Fig. 9[34,33,,40,50])) coupled to an output of the amplifier circuit

lida and Westwick are analogous, because both relating to amplifier circuit. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employing the amplifier circuit of Westwick in optical disk driver of lida for the purpose of maintain the output of differential amplifier at a predetermined value (Westwick Col. 3 lines 16-25).

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh Van Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-1934. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 – 5:00 Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Michael Tokar can be reached at (703) 305-3493. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

LVN

September 4, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Tokar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Tokar  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800